

UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

Computer Centre

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Date: Week ended 31 August 1972
Authorization: Director of the Computer Centre

1. OPERATIONS

1.1 PDP-10 System

Tuesday 29 August End of Day accounting for two nights, 0930-1055,
System failure, offline 1319-1330, restarted system,
System failure, offline 1447-1453, monitor reloaded.
Wednesday 30 August Card reader maintenance, no Batch processed 1715-1950,
System closed at 2100 for processing of monthly
invoices.
Friday 31 August System failure, offline 1115-1200, monitor reloaded.

Schedule for forthcoming week: Maintenance 0700-0900
Operations 0930-2300

1.2 GE-225 System

Schedule for forthcoming week: Maintenance 0700-0830, 2000-2130
Operations 0900-2000, 2130-2400.

2. FORTRAN MANUAL MNT-5

2.1 Page 6A-13

The paragraph beginning 'It is inadvisable . . . ' should be amended to read:

It is inadvisable to create a file in the first instance or enlarge a file further ahead than the next sequential record using direct access writes. A file to be directly accessed should initially be created by sequentially writing the full number of blank records required, releasing the channel and then defining the file appropriate. Note that the record size for the sequential write and the define file must be the same.

2.2 Page 6A-14

The second form of END and ERROR.

READ (u'r, f, END=n, ERR=m) list

will not be successful in detecting the end of the file, since at present, if r, the record number, is < 1 or > the last record number, the result is a fatal 'ERROR IN JOB N ILL MEM REF'.

3. BASIC VERSION 17A

The Centre is contemplating replacing the present system version of Basic with version 17A. However, there are one or two problems associated with this:

(a) File Differences

The new version uses a different format for its program file that involves setting bit 35 of words that contain line numbers. Such files cannot be directly listed but it would be a simple matter to make them listable if this were an important requirement. Note that files produced by the present Basic are acceptable as input, as are any files created by Editor.

(b) Increased Size

Version 17A may use up to 14K of storage (2K low segment and 12K high segment) while the current version only takes up 10K of storage (3K low segment 7K high segment).

Version 17A offers greatly improved facilities, for example a formatted output capability, a much extended file capability and a means of linking between programs. It is felt that the advantages of 17A outweigh the disadvantages of file compatibility problems and increased size. While the Centre will be contacting major users groups for their opinions; comments on this proposal will be welcomed from any interested user. Please contact Mr deVail on Extension 8168.

4. AID VERSION 17

Version 17 of aid has been put on the system. This version corrects reported errors (for example an error in the ARG function).

5. NEW TYPE 4 PROGRAM RELEASES

The following programs have all been released as Type 4 programs. There is temporary documentation available in the clients room for reference only.

(A) SIM-11

Released on the SIMUL directory. This is Version 12 of the PDP-11 simulator, which allows PDP-11 programs etc. to be developed on the PDP-10 without the aid of a PDP-11 processor. Documentation reference is DECUS 10-28.

(B) PALX-11

Released on the LAEG directory. Documentation on the PAL-11 assembly language is in DECUS 10-31.

(C) GIST

GIST is a general interpretive string translator for the PDP-10. It is released on the LANG directory. Documentation is in DECUS 6/10-39.

(D) MEDFOR

MEDFOR is a fast Fortran compiler, developed by the medical school computing facility of the University of Pennsylvania. It is released on the LANG directory. See the documentation for a list of error messages as well as discussion on running MEDFOR and a cost comparison between MEDFOR and Fortran.